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From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU PCT **NOVOZYMES A/S** Krogshoejvej 86/erence NOTICE INFORMING THE APPLICANT OF THE DK-2880 Bagsværd Country COMMUNICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL **DANEMARK** APPLICATION TO THE DESIGNATED OFFICES Agent . 27./FR 2001 (PCT Rule 47.1(c), first sentence) Short title Date of mailing (day/month/year) Term 19 April 2001 (19.04.01) Applicant's or agent's file reference 5958 IMPORTANT NOTICE International application No. International filing date (day/month/year) Priority date (day/month/year) PCT/DK00/00577 12 October 2000 (12.10.00) 14 October 1999 (14.10.99) Applicant NOVOZYMES A/S

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Date of mailing (day/month/year) 19 April 2001 (19.04.01)	IMPORTANT NOTICE
Applicant's or agent's file reference 5958	International application No. PCT/DK00/00577

The applicant is hereby notified that, at the time of establishment of this Notice, the time limit under Rule 46.1 for making amendments under Article 19 has not yet expired and the International Bureau had received neither such amendments nor a declaration that the applicant does not wish to make amendments.

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4

(54) Title: LYSOPHOSPHOLIPASE FROM ASPERGILLUS

(57) Abstract: The inventors have isolated lysophospholipases from Aspergillus (A. niger and A. oryzae) having molecular masses of about 68 kDa and amino acid sequences of 600-604 amino acid residues. The novel lysophospholipases have only a limited homology to known amino acid sequences. The inventors also isolated genes encoding the novel enzymes and cloned them into E coli strains.

LYSOPHOSPHOLIPASE FROM ASPERGILLUS

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to lysophospholipases (LPL), methods of using and producing them, as well as nucleic acid sequences encoding them.

5 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Lysophospholipases (EC 3.1.1.5) are enzymes that can hydrolyze 2-lysophospholids to release fatty acid. They are known to be useful, e.g., for improving the filterability of an aqueous solution containing a starch hydrolysate, particularly a wheat starch hydrolysate (EP 219,269).

N. Masuda et al., Eur. J. Biochem., 202, 783-787 (1991) describe an LPL from *Penicillium notatum* as a glycoprotein having a molecular mass of 95 kDa and a published amino acid sequence of 603 amino acid residues. WO 98/31790 and EP 808,903 describe LPL from *Aspergillus foetidus* and *Aspergillus niger*, each having a molecular mass of 36 kDa and an amino acid sequence of 270 amino acids.

JP-A 10-155493 describes a phospholipase A1 from *Aspergillus oryzae*. The mature protein has 269 amino acids.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The inventors have isolated lysophospholipases from Aspergillus (A. niger and A. oryzae) having molecular masses of about 68 kDa and amino acid sequences of 600-604 amino acid residues. The novel lysophospholipases have only a limited homology to known amino acid sequences. The inventors also isolated genes encoding the novel enzymes and cloned them into E. coli strains.

Accordingly, the invention provides a lysophospholipase which may be a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence as the mature peptide shown in one of the following or which can be obtained therefrom by substitution, deletion, and/or insertion of one or more amino acids, particularly by deletion of 25-35 amino acids at the C-terminal:

SEQ ID NO: 2 (hereinafter denoted A. niger LLPL-1),

SEQ ID NO: 4 (hereinafter denoted A. niger LLPL-2),

SEQ ID NO: 6 (hereinafter denoted A. oryzae LLPL-1), or

SEQ ID NO: 8 (hereinafter denoted A. onyzae LLPL-2).

Further, the lysophospholipase of the invention may be a polypeptide encoded by the lysophospholipase encoding part of the DNA sequence cloned into a

residues can be aligned with the mature A. oryzae LLPL-2 of the invention (604 amino acids) with a homology of 79 %.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Genomic DNA source

Lysophospholipases of the invention may be derived from strains of *Aspergillus*, particularly strains of *A. niger* and *A. oryzae*, using probes designed on the basis of the DNA sequences in this specification.

Strains of *Escherichia coli* containing genes encoding lysophospholipase were deposited by the inventors under the terms of the Budapest Treaty with the DSMZ - Deutsche Sammlung von Microorganismen und Zellkulturen GmbH, Mascheroder Weg 1b, D-38124 Braunschweig DE as follows:

Source organism	Designation of lysophospholipase	Accession number	Date deposited
A. niger	LLPL-1	DSM 13003	18 August 1999
A. niger	LLPL-2	DSM 13004	18 August 1999
A. oryzae	LLPL-1	DSM 13082	8 October 1999
A. oryzae	LLPL-2	DSM 13083	8 October 1999

C-terminal deletion

The lysophospholipase may be derived from the mature peptide shown in SEQ ID NOS: 2, 4, 6 or 8 by deletion at the C-terminal to remove the ω site residue while preserving the lysophospholipase activity. The ω site residue is described in Yoda et al. Biosci. Biotechnol. Biochem. 64, 142-148, 2000, e.g. S577 of SEQ ID NO: 4. Thus, the C-terminal deletion may particularly consist of 25-35 amino acid residues.

A lysophospholipase with a C-terminal deletion may particularly be produced by expression in a strain of *A. oryzae*.

Properties of lysophospholipase

The lysophospholipase of the invention is able to hydrolyze fatty acyl groups in lysophospholipid such as lyso-lecithin (Enzyme Nomenclature EC 3.1.1.5). It may also be able to release fatty acids from intact phospholipid (e.g. lecithin).

Molecules to which the oligonucleotide probe hybridizes under these conditions are detected using a x-ray film.

Alignment and homology

The lysophospholipase and the nucleotide sequence of the invention pref-5 erably have homologies to the disclosed sequences of at least 80 %, particularly at least 90 % or at least 95 %, e.g. at least 98 %.

For purposes of the present invention, alignments of sequences and calculation of homology scores were done using a full Smith-Waterman alignment, useful for both protein and DNA alignments. The default scoring matrices BLOSUM50 and the 10 identity matrix are used for protein and DNA alignments respectively. The penalty for the first residue in a gap is -12 for proteins and -16 for DNA, while the penalty for additional residues in a gap is -2 for proteins and -4 for DNA. Alignment is from the FASTA package version v20u6 (W. R. Pearson and D. J. Lipman (1988), "Improved Tools for Biological Sequence Analysis", PNAS 85:2444-2448, and W. R. Pearson 15 (1990) "Rapid and Sensitive Sequence Comparison with FASTP and FASTA", Methods in Enzymology, 183:63-98). Multiple alignments of protein sequences were done using "ClustalW" (Thompson, J.D., Higgins, D.G. and Gibson, T.J. (1994) CLUSTAL W: improving the sensitivity of progressive multiple sequence alignment through sequence weighting, positions-specific gap penalties and weight matrix choice. Nucleic 20 Acids Research, 22:4673-4680). Multiple alignment of DNA sequences are done using the protein alignment as a template, replacing the amino acids with the corresponding codon from the DNA sequence.

Lysophospholipase activity (LLU)

Lysophospholipase activity is measured using egg yolk L- α -lysolecithin as the substrate with a NEFA C assay kit.

20 μl of sample is mixed with 100 μl of 20 mM sodium acetate buffer (pH 4.5) and 100 μl of 1% L-α-lysolecithin solution, and incubated at 55°C for 20 min. After 20 min, the reaction mixture is transferred to the tube containing 30 μl of Solution A in NEFA kit preheated at 37°C. After 10 min incubation at 37°C, 600 μl of Solution B in NEFA kit is added to the reaction mixture and incubated at 37°C for 10 min. Activity is measured at 555 nm on a spectrophotometer. One unit of lysophospholipase activity (1 LLU) is defined as the amount of enzyme that can increase the A550 of 0.01 per minute at 55°C.

7

John Wiley and Sons, 1995; Harwood, C. R., and Cutting, S. M. (eds.) "Molecular Biological Methods for Bacillus". John Wiley and Sons, 1990.

Enzymes

Enzymes for DNA manipulations (e.g. restriction endonucleases, ligases etc.) are obtainable from New England Biolabs, Inc. and were used according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Plasmids/vectors

pT7Blue (Invitrogen, Netherlands) pUC19 (Genbank Accession #: X02514) pYES 2.0 (Invitrogen, USA).

Microbial strains

E. coli JM109 (TOYOBO, Japan)

E. coli DH12α (GIBCO BRL, Life Technologies, USA)

Aspergillus oryzae strain IFO 4177 is available from Institute for Fermenta-15 tion, Osaka (IFO) Culture Collection of Microorganisms, 17-85, Juso-honmachi, 2chome, Yodogawa-ku, Osaka 532-8686, Japan.

A. oryzae BECh-2 is described in Danish patent application PA 1999 01726. It is a mutant of JaL 228 (described in WO 98/12300) which is a mutant of IFO 4177.

Reagents

NEFA test kit (Wako, Japan)
 L-α-lysolecithin (Sigma, USA).

Media and reagents

Cove: 342.3 g/L Sucrose, 20 ml/L COVE salt solution, 10mM Acetamide, 30 g/L noble agar.

25 Cove-2: 30 g/L Sucrose, 20 ml/L COVE salt solution, 10mM, Acetamide, 30 g/L noble agar.

Cove salt solution: per liter 26 g KCI, 26 g MgSO4-7aq, 76 g KH2PO4, 50ml Cove trace metals.

Cove trace metals: per liter 0.04 g NaB4O7-10aq, 0.4 g CuSO4-5aq, 1.2 g 30 FeSO4-7aq, 0.7 g MnSO4-aq, 0.7 g Na2MoO2-2aq, 0.7 g ZnSO4-7aq.

AMG trace metals: per liter 14.3 g ZnSO4-7aq, 2.5 g CuSO4-5aq, 0.5 g NiCl2, 13.8 g FeSO4, 8.5 g MnSO4, 3.0 g citric acid.

YPG: 4 g/L Yeast extract, 1 g/L KH2PO4, 0.5 g/L MgSO4-7aq, 5 g/L Glucose, pH 6.0.

35 STC: 0.8 M Sorbitol, 25 mM Tris pH 8, 25 mM CaCl2.

Step	Temperature	Time
1	94°C	2 min
2	92°C	1 min
3	55°C	1 min
· 4	72°C	1 min
5	72°C	10 min
6	4°C	forever

Steps 2 to 4 were repeated 30 times.

The expected size, 1.0 kb fragment was gel-purified with QIA gel extraction kit (Qiagen, Germany) and ligated into a pT7Blue vector with ligation high (TOYOBO, Japan). The ligation mixture was transformed into *E. coli* JM109. The resultant plasmid (pHUda94) was sequenced and compared to the *Penicillium* lysophospholipase, showing that a clone encodes the internal part of the lysophospholipase.

Cloning of Ilpl-1 gene

In order to clone the missing part of the lysophospholipase gene, a genomic restriction map was constructed by using the PCR fragment as probes to a Southern blot of Aspergillus niger DNA digested with seven restriction enzymes, separately and probed with 1.0 kb fragment encoding partial lysophospholipase from pHUda94.

A hybridized 4-6 kb SphI fragment was selected for a llpl-1 gene subclone.

For construction of a partial genomic library of *Aspergillus niger*, the genomic DNA was digested with Sphl and run on a 0.7 % agarose gel. DNA with a size between 4 to 6 kb was purified and cloned into pUC19 pretreated Sphl and BAP (Bacterial alkaline phosphatase). The sphl sub-library was made by transforming the ligated clones into *E. coli* DH12α cells. Colonies were grown on Hybond-N+ membranes (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech, Japan) and hybridized to DIG-labelled (Nonradio isotope) 1.0 kb fragment from pHUda94.

Positive colonies were picked up and their inserts were checked by PCR. Plasmids from selected colonies were prepared and sequenced revealing 5 kb Sphl fragment were containing whole llpl-1 gene.

Expression of llpl-1 gene in Aspergillus oryzae.

The coding region of the LLPL-1 gene was amplified from genomic DNA of an Aspergillus niger strain by PCR with the primers HU188 (SEQ ID NO: 11) and HU189 (SEQ ID NO: 12) which included a EcoRV and a Xhol restriction enzyme site, respectively.

creased lysophospholipase activity in supernatants and the presence of increased lysophospholipase activity in cell free extracts.

Strain	Yield (supernatant) Relative activity	Yield (Cell fraction) Relative activity
BECh-2	1.0	1.0
LP3	1.0	4.5
	1.0	4.0
LP8	1.0	6.5
	1.0	5.5

Example 2: Cloning and expression of LLPL-2 gene from A. niger

Preparation of a llp2 probe

The same strain of *Aspergillus niger* as in Example 1 was used as a genomic DNA supplier.

PCR reactions on Aspergillus niger genomic DNA was done with the primers HU212 (SEQ ID NO: 13) and HU213 (SEQ ID NO: 14) designed based upon amino acid sequences from purified lysophospholipase from AMG 400L (described in Ex10 ample 4).

Reaction components (1 ng /µl of genomic DNA, 250 mM dNTP each, primer 250 nM each, 0.1 U/ µl in Taq polymerase in 1X buffer (Roche Diagnostics, Japan)) were mixed and submitted for PCR under the following conditions.

The state and submitted for For Gr										
Step	Temperature	Time								
1	94°C	2 min								
2	92℃ ·	1 min								
. 3	50°C	1 min								
4	72°C	1 min								
5	72°C	10 min								
6	4°C	forever								

Steps 2 to 4 were repeated 30 times.

The expected size, 0.6 kb fragment was gel-purified with QIA gel extraction kit (Qiagen, Germany) and ligated into a pT7Blue vector with ligation high (TOYOBO, Japan). The ligation mixture was transformed into *E. coli* JM109. The resultant plasmid (pHUda114) was sequenced and compared to the *Penicillium* lysophospholipase, showing that a clone encodes the internal part of the lysophospholipase.

JM109. The resultant plasmid (pLLPL2) was sequenced. The pLLPL2 was confirmed that no changes had happen in the LLPL-2 sequences.

The pLLPL2 was digested with BgllI and PmeI and ligated into the BamHI and NruI sites in the Aspergillus expression cassette pCaHj483 which has Aspergillus niger neutral amylase promoter, Aspergillus nidulans TPI leader sequences, Aspergillus niger glucoamylase terminator and Aspergillus nidulans amdS gene as a marker. The resultant plasmid was pHUda123.

The LLPL-2 expression plasmid, pHUda123, was digested with Notl and about 6.0 kb DNA fragment containing Aspergillus niger neutral amylase promoter, LLPL-2 coding region, Aspergillus niger glucoamylase terminator and Aspergillus nidulans amdS gene was gel-purified with QIA gel extraction kit.

The 6.0 kb DNA fragment was transformed into Aspergillus oryzae BECh-2. The selected transformants were inoculated in 100 ml of MS-9 media and cultivated at 30°C for 1 day. 3 ml of grown cell in MS-9 medium was inoculated to 100 ml of MDU-pH5 medium and cultivated cultivated at 30°C for 4 days.

The supernatant was obtained by centrifugation. The cell was opened by mixed with the equal volume of reaction buffer (50 mM KPB-pH 6.0) and glass-beads for 5 min on ice and debris was removed by centrifugation.

The lysophospholipase productivity of selected transformants was determined as in Example 1. The results shown in the table below clearly demonstrate the
absence of increased lysophospholipase activity in supernatants and the presence of
increased lysophospholipase activity in cell free extracts.

Strain	Yield (supernatant)	Yield (Cell fraction)
	. Relative activity	Relative activity
BECh-2	1.0	1.0
Fg-9	1.0	22.5
Fg-15	1.0	18.0
Fg-27	1.0	17.0
Fg-33	1.0	14.5

Example 3: Cloning and expression of LLPL genes from E. coli clones

Each of the following large molecular weight lysophospholipase (LLPL) genes is cloned from the indicated *E. coli* clone as genomic DNA supplier, and the gene is expressed in *A. oryzae* as described in Examples 1 and 2.

35

Example 5: Identification and sequencing of LLPL-1 and LLPL-2 genes from A. oryzae

Cultivation of A. oryzae

Aspergillus oryzae strain IFO 4177 was grown in two 20-liter lab fermentors on a 10-liter scale at 34°C using yeast extract and dextrose in the batch medium, and maltose syrup, urea, yeast extract, and trace metals in the feed. Fungal mycelia from the first lab fermentor were harvested by filtering through a cellulose filter (pore size 7-11 microns) after 27 hours, 68.5 hours, 118 hours, and 139 hours of growth. The growth conditions for the second fermentor were identical to the first one, except for a slower growth rate during the first 20 hours of fermentation. Fungal mycelia from the second lab fermentor were harvested as above after 68.3 hours of growth. The harvested mycelia were immediately frozen in liquid N₂ and stored at -80°C.

The Aspergillus oryzae strain IFO 4177 was also grown in four 20-liter lab fermentors on a 10-liter scale at 34°C using sucrose in the batch medium, and maltose syrup, ammonia, and yeast extract in the feed. The first of the four fermentations was carried out at pH 4.0. The second of the four fermentations was carried out at pH 7.0 with a constant low agitation rate (550 rpm) to achieve the rapid development of reductive metabolism. The third of the four fermentations was carried out at pH 7.0 under phosphate limited growth by lowering the amount of phosphate and yeast extract added to the batch medium. The fourth of the four fermentations was carried out at pH 7.0 and 39°C. After 75 hours of fermentation the temperature was lowered to 34°C. At 98 hours of fermentation the addition of carbon feed was stopped and the culture was allowed to starve for the last 30 hours of the fermentation. Fungal mycelial samples from the four lab fermentors above were then collected as described above, immediately frozen in liquid N₂, and stored at -80°C.

Aspergillus oryzae strain IFO 4177 was also grown on Whatman filters placed on Cove-N agar plates for two days. The mycelia were collected, immediately frozen in liquid N₂, and stored at -80°C.

Aspergillus oryzae strain IFO 4177 was also grown at 30°C in 150 ml shake flasks containing RS-2 medium (Kofod et al., 1994, Journal of Biological Chemistry 269: 29182-29189) or a defined minimal medium. Fungal mycelia were collected after 5 days of growth in the RS-2 medium and 3 and 4 days of growth in the defined minimal medium, immediately frozen in liquid N₂, and stored at -80°C.

Construction of directional cDNA libraries from Aspergillus oryzae

Total RNA was prepared by extraction with guanidinium thiocyanate followed by ultracentrifugation through a 5.7 M CsCl cushion (Chirgwin et al., 1979, Biochemistry 18: 5294-5299) using the following modifications. The frozen mycelia were

of DEPC-treated water) was heated at 70°C for 8 minutes in a pre-siliconized, RNase-free Eppendorf tube, quenched on ice, and combined in a final volume of 50 il with reverse transcriptase buffer (50 mM Tris-Cl pH 8.3, 75 mM KCl, 3 mM MgCl₂, 10 mM DTT) containing 1 mM of dATP, dGTP and dTTP, and 0.5 mM of 5-methyl- dCTP, 40 units of human placental ribonuclease inhibitor, 4.81 μg of oligo(dT)₁₈-Not1 primer and 1000 units of SuperScript II RNase H - reverse transcriptase.

First-strand cDNA was synthesized by incubating the reaction mixture at 45°C for 1 hour. After synthesis, the mRNA:cDNA hybrid mixture was gel filtrated through a Pharmacia MicroSpin S-400 HR spin column according to the manufacturer's instructions.

After the gel filtration, the hybrids were diluted in 250 μl of second strand buffer (20 mM Tris-Cl pH 7.4, 90 mM KCl, 4.6 mM MgCl₂, 10 mM (NH₄)₂SO₄, 0.16 mM ßNAD*) containing 200 iM of each dNTP, 60 units of *E. coli* DNA polymerase I (Pharmacia, Uppsala, Sweden), 5.25 units of RNase H, and 15 units of *E. coli* DNA ligase. Second strand cDNA synthesis was performed by incubating the reaction tube at 16°C for 2 hours, and an additional 15 minutes at 25°C. The reaction was stopped by addition of EDTA to 20 mM final concentration followed by phenol and chloroform extractions.

The double-stranded cDNA was ethanol precipitated at -20°C for 12 hours by addition of 2 volumes of 96% ethanol and 0.2 volume of 10 M ammonium acetate, recovered by centrifugation, washed in 70% ethanol, dried (SpeedVac), and resuspended in 30 ml of Mung bean nuclease buffer (30 mM sodium acetate pH 4.6, 300 mM NaCl, 1 mM ZnSO₄, 0.35 mM dithiothreitol, 2% glycerol) containing 25 units of Mung bean nuclease. The single-stranded hair-pin DNA was clipped by incubating the reaction at 30°C for 30 minutes, followed by addition of 70 ml of 10 mM Tris-Cl, pH 7.5, 1 mM EDTA, phenol extraction, and ethanol precipitation with 2 volumes of 96% ethanol and 0.1 volume 3 M sodium acetate pH 5.2 on ice for 30 minutes.

The double-stranded cDNAs were recovered by centrifugation (20,000 rpm, 30 minutes), and blunt-ended with T4 DNA polymerase in 30 µl of T4 DNA polymerase buffer (20 mM Tris-acetate, pH 7.9, 10 mM magnesium acetate, 50 mM potassium acetate, 1 mM dithiothreitol) containing 0.5 mM of each dNTP, and 5 units of T4 DNA polymerase by incubating the reaction mixture at +16°C for 1 hour. The reaction was stopped by addition of EDTA to 20 mM final concentration, followed by phenol and chloroform extractions and ethanol precipitation for 12 h at -20°C by adding 2 volumes of 96% ethanol and 0.1 volume of 3M sodium acetate pH 5.2.

After the fill-in reaction the cDNAs were recovered by centrifugation as above, washed in 70% ethanol, and the DNA pellet was dried in a SpeedVac. The cDNA pellet was resuspended in 25 μ l of ligation buffer (30 mM Tris-Cl, pH 7.8, 10

ml of 1x TE pH 7.5, loaded on a 0.8% SeaKem agarose gel in 1x TBE, and run on the gel for 3 hours at 60 V. The digested vector was cut out from the gel, and the DNA was extracted from the gel using the GFX gel band purification kit (Amersham-Pharmacia Biotech, Uppsala, Sweden) according to the manufacturer's instructions.

5 After measuring the DNA concentration by OD_{260/280}, the eluted vector was stored at -20°C until library construction.

To establish the optimal ligation conditions for the cDNA library, four test ligations were carried out in 10 il of ligation buffer (30 mM Tris-Cl pH 7.8, 10 mM MgCl₂, 10 mM DTT, 0.5 mM ATP) containing 7 μl of double-stranded cDNA, (corresponding 10 to approximately 1/10 of the total volume in the cDNA sample), 2 units of T4 ligase, and 25 ng, 50 ng and 75 ng of EcoRI-Noft cleaved pYES2.0 vector, respectively (Invitrogen). The vector background control ligation reaction contained 75 ng of EcoRI-NotI cleaved pYES.0 vector without cDNA. The ligation reactions were performed by incubation at 16°C for 12 hours, heated at 65°C for 20 minutes, and then 10 µl of 15 autoclaved water was added to each tube. One il of the ligation mixtures was electroporated (200 W, 2.5 kV, 25 mF) to 40 µl electrocompetent E. coli DH10B cells (Life Technologies, Gaithersburg, MD). After addition of 1 ml SOC to each transformation mix, the cells were grown at 37°C for 1 hour, 50 μl and 5 μl from each electroporation were plated on LB plates supplemented with ampicillin at 100 µg per ml 20 and grown at 37°C for 12 hours. Using the optimal conditions, 18 Aspergillus oryzae IFO 4177 cDNA libraries containing 1-2.5x107 independent colony forming units was established in E. coli, with a vector background of ca. 1%. The cDNA library was stored as (1) individual pools (25,000 c.f.u./pool) in 20% glycerol at -80°C; (2) cell pellets of the same pools at -20°C; (3) Qiagen purified plasmid DNA from individual 25 pools at -20°C (Qiagen Tip 100); and (4) directional, double-stranded cDNA at -20°C.

Aspergillus oryzae EST (expressed sequence tag) Template Preparation

From each cDNA library described, transformant colonies were picked directly from the transformation plates into 96-well microtiter dishes (QIAGEN, GmbH, Hilden Germany) which contained 200 μl TB broth (Life Technologies, Frederick Maryland) with 100 μg ampicillin per ml. The plates were incubated 24 hours with agitation (300 rpm) on a rotary shaker. To prevent spilling and cross-contamination, and to allow sufficient aeration, the plates were covered with a microporous tape sheet AirPoreTM (QIAGEN GmbH, Hilden Germany). DNA was isolated from each well using the QIAprep 96 Turbo kit (QIAGEN GmbH, Hilden Germany).

dition of 10 ml of 50 °C Cove top agarose, the reaction was poured onto Cove agar plate. Transformation plates were incubated at 32 °C for 5 days.

Expression of LLPL-2 gene in Aspergillus niger.

The coding region of the LLPL-2 gene was amplified from genomic DNA of an Aspergillus niger strain by PCR with the primers HU225 (SEQ ID NO: 15) and HU226 (SEQ ID NO: 16) which included a Bglll and a Pmel restriction enzyme site, respectively.

Reaction components (1 ng /μl of genomic DNA, 250 mM dNTP each, primer 250 nM each, 0.1 U/ μl in Taq polymerase in 1X buffer (Roche Diagnostics, Japan)) were mixed and submitted for PCR under the following conditions.

Step	Temperature	time
1	.94 ℃	2 min
2	92 ℃	1 min
3	55 ℃	1 min
4	72 ℃	2 min
5	72 ℃	10 min
6	4 °C	forever

Step 2 to 4 were repeated 30 times.

The 2 kb fragment was gel-purified with QIA gel extraction kit and ligated into a pT7Blue vector with Ligation high. The ligation mixture was transformed into *E. coli* JM109. The resultant plasmid (pLLPL2) was sequenced, and it was confirmed that no changes had happened in the LLPL-2 sequences.

The pLLPL2 was digested with BgIII and Prnel and ligated into the BamHI and Nrul sites in the Aspergillus expression cassette pCaHj483 which has Aspergillus niger neutral amylase promoter, Aspergillus nidulans TPI leader sequences, Aspergillus niger glucoamylase terminator and Aspergillus nidulans amdS gene as a marker. The resultant plasmid was named pHUda123.

The LLPL-2 expression plasmid, pHUda123, was transformed into an Aspergillus niger strain. Selected transformants were inoculated in 100 ml of MLC media and cultivated at 30 °C for 2 days. 5 ml of grown cell in MLC medium was inoculated to 100 ml of MU-1 medium and cultivated at 30 °C for 7 days.

Supernatant was obtained by centrifugation, and the lysophospholipase activity was measured as described above. The table below shows the lysophospholi-

high.(TOYOBO). The ligation mixture was transformed into *E. coli* JM109. The resultant plasmid (pHUda126) was sequenced to confirm that nucleotides 115-1824 of SEQ ID NO: 3 were intact and that nucleotides 1825-1914 of SEQ ID NO: 3 had been deleted, corresponding to a C-terminal deletion of amino acids S571-L600 of LLPL-2 (SEQ ID NO: 4)...

The 2.0 kb fragment encoding LLPL-2-CD was obtained by digesting pHUda126 with BgIII and Smal. The 2.0 kb fragment was gel-purified with the QIA gel extraction kit and ligated into the BamHI and Nrul sites in the *Aspergillus* expression cassette pCaHj483 with Ligation high. The ligation mixture was transformed into 10 *E. coli* JM109.

The resultant plasmid (pHUda128) for LLPL-2-CD expression cassette was constructed and transformed into the *A. oryzae* strain, BECh-2. Selected transformants were inoculated in 100 ml of MS-9 media and cultivated at 30 °C for 1 day. 3 ml of grown cell in MS-9 medium was inoculated to 100 ml of MDU-pH5 medium and cultivated cultivated at 30 °C for 3 days.

Supernatant was obtained by centrifugation, and the lysophospholipase activity was measured as described above. The table below shows the lysophospholipase activity from of the selected transformants, relative to the activity of the host strain, BECh-2 which was normalized to 1.0.

20

Strain	Yield (supernatant)
· .	Relative activity
BECh-2	1.0
128-3	9
128-9	7
128-12	33
128-15	11

The above results clearly demonstrate the presence of increased lysophospholipase activity in supernatants.

Example 7: Use of A. niger LLPL-2 in Filtration

Filtration performance was determined at 60 °C and pH 4.5 using partially hydrolyzed wheat starch, as follows: The wheat starch hydrolyzate (25 ml in a 100 ml flask) was mixed with LLPL-2 from Example 4 at a dosage of 0.4 L/t dry matter and incubated 6 hours at 60 °C under magnetic stirring. A control was made without enzyme addition. After 6 hours incubation the hydrolyzate was decanted into a glass

CLAIMS

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- 1. A lysophospholipase which is:
 - a) a polypeptide encoded by a lysophospholipase encoding part of the DNA sequence cloned into a plasmid present in *Escherichia coli* deposit number DSM 13003, DSM 13004, DSM 13082 or DSM 13083, or
 - b) a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence as the mature peptide shown in SEQ ID NO: 2, 4, 6 or 8, or which can be derived therefrom by substitution, deletion, and/or insertion of one or more amino acids, particularly by deletion of 25-35 amino acids at the C-terminal;
- 10 c) an analogue of the polypeptide defined in (a) or (b) which:
 - i) has at least 70% homology with said polypeptide,
 - ii) is immunologically reactive with an antibody raised against said polypeptide in purified form, or
 - iii) is an allelic variant of said polypeptide; or
- d) a polypeptide which is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence which hybridizes under high stringency conditions with a complementary strand of the nucleic acid sequence shown as nucleotides 109-1920 of SEQ ID NO: 1, 115-1914 of SEQ ID NO: 3, 70-1881 of SEQ ID NO: 5 or 193-2001 of SEQ ID NO: 7, or a subsequence thereof having at least 100 nucleotides.
- 20 2. The lysophospholipase of claim 1 which is native to a strain of Aspergillus, preferably A. niger or A. oryzae.
 - 3. A nucleic acid sequence comprising a nucleic acid sequence which encodes the lysophospholipase of claim 1 or 2.
 - 4. A nucleic acid sequence which comprises:
- a) the lysophospholipase encoding part of the DNA sequence cloned into a plasmid present in *Escherichia coli* DSM 13003, DSM 13004, DSM 13082 or DSM 13083,
 - b) the nucleic acid sequence shown as nucleotides 109-1920 of SEQ ID NO: 1, 115-1914 of SEQ ID NO: 3, 70-1881 of SEQ ID NO: 5 or 193-2001 of SEQ ID NO: 7,
 - c) an analogue of the sequence defined in a) or b) which encodes a lysophospholipase and

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1111	aac Asn 40	acc Thr	tct Ser	ctg Leu 545	Pro	gat Asp	Ile	tgt Cys 550	acc Thr	acc Thr	tgc Cys	ttt Phe	aac Asn	gat Asp	tac Tyr	1776
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teg Ser	gtg Val	ctg Leu 590	gcg Ala	ctc Leu	gcc Ala 59	Met	ggt Gly	gtt Val	gct Ala 600	gcg Ala	ttt Phe	atg Met	ctg Leu	tag		1917
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- Asn Ile Pro Asn Ile Ala Ile Ala Ala Ser Gly Gly Tyr Arg Ala
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- Gln Ile Val Ser Thr Val Glu Tyr Trp Lys Asp Ile Thr Glu Glu Val 175 180 185
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- Gly Arg Ala Leu Ser Tyr Gln Leu Val Asn Ala Ser Asp Asp Lys Gly
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Asn Gly Gln Tyr Pro Met Pro Ile Val Val Ala Asp Gly Arg Asn Pro 235 240 245 250

- Gly Glu Ile Ile Val Glu Thr Asn Ala Thr Val Tyr Glu Val Asn Pro 255 260 265
- Trp Glu Phe Gly Ser Phe Asp Pro Ser Val Tyr Ala Phe Ala Pro Leu 270 275 280
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- Thr Cys Val Ser Gly Phe Asp Asn Ala Gly Phe Ile Met Gly Ser Ser 300 305 310
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- Val Asp Gly Glu Asp Gly Glu Asn Ile Pro Leu His Pro Leu Ile 380 385 390
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475

480

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Cys Trp Asn Gly Thr Thr Asn Ser Thr Thr Pro Gly Ala Tyr Glu Pro 555 560 565 570

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		Phe		Ala		61A 888										288
Ser	aat Asn '5	att Ile	cca Pro	aac Asn 80	gtg Val	gcc Ala	att Ile 8	Ala	gtt Val	tca Ser	ggt Gly	ggt Gly	ggt Gly	tac Tyr	cgc Arg	336
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act Thr	tat Tyr	cta Leu 125	tcg Ser	ggc	Leu	agt Ser 30	ggt Gly	ggt Gly	gga Gly 135	Trp	ctc Leu	gtg Val	ggc	tcc Ser	gtg Val	480
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Val					Asn	tct Ser	Ile									576
Val 1 ttc	Trp 55 caa	Asp ctg	Phe atc	Lys 16	Asn O act		Ile	Leu 165 tac Tyr	Glu	Gly aag Lys	Pro	Asp	Val	Lys gat	His	576 - 624
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540 545 550

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560

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Ser Asn Ile Pro Asn Val Ala Ile Ala Val Ser Gly Gly Tyr Arg 75 80 85

Ala Leu Thr Asn Gly Ala Gly Ala Ile Lys Ala Phe Asp Ser Arg Thr 90 95 100 105

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 - Tyr Ile Asn Asn Phe Thr Thr Ile Gly Asp Leu Gln Ala Ser Asp Lys 140 145 150
 - Val Trp Asp Phe Lys Asn Ser Ile Leu Glu Gly Pro Asp Val Lys His 155 160 165
 - Phe Gln Leu Ile Asn Thr Ala Ala Tyr Trp Lys Asp Leu Tyr Asp Ala 170 185 180 185
 - Val Lys Asp Lys Arg Asn Ala Gly Phe Asn Thr Ser Leu Thr Asp Tyr
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- Gly Gly Pro Ser Tyr Thr Trp Ser Ser Ile Ala Leu Gly Asp Asp Phe 220 225 230
- Lys Lys Gly Lys Met Pro Met Pro Ile Leu Val Ala Asp Gly Arg Asn 235 240 245
- Pro Gly Glu Ile Leu Ile Gly Ser Asn Ser Thr Val Tyr Glu Phe Asn 250 265 260 265
- Pro Trp Glu Phe Gly Ser Phe Asp Pro Ser Val Tyr Gly Phe Ala Pro 270 275 280
- Leu Glu Tyr Leu Gly Ser Asn Phe Glu Asn Gly Glu Leu Pro Lys Gly 285 290 295
- Glu Ser Cys Val Arg Gly Phe Asp Asn Ala Gly Phe Val Met Gly Thr 300 305 310
- Ser Ser Ser Leu Phe Asn Gln Phe Ile Leu Arg Leu Asn Gly Thr Asp 315 320 325

Ile Pro Asn Phe Leu Lys Glu Ala Ile Ala Asp Val Leu Glu His Leu 330 345

- Gly Glu Asn Asp Glu Asp Ile Ala Val Tyr Ala Pro Asn Pro Phe Tyr 350 355 360
- Lys Tyr Arg Asn Ser Thr Ala Ala Tyr Ser Ser Thr Pro Glu Leu Asp 365 370 375
- Val Val Asp Gly Glu Asp Gly Gln Asn Val Pro Leu His Pro Leu 380 385 390
- Ile Gln Pro Thr His Asn Val Asp Val Ile Phe Ala Val Asp Ser Ser 395 400 405
- Ala Asp Thr Asp His Ser Trp Pro Asn Gly Ser Ser Leu Ile Tyr Thr 410 415 420 425
- Tyr Glu Arg Ser Leu Asn Thr Thr Gly Ile Ala Asn Gly Thr Ser Phe
 430 435 440
- Pro Ala Val Pro Asp Val Asn Thr Phe Leu Asn Leu Gly Leu Asn Lys 445 450 455
- Arg Pro Thr Phe Phe Gly Cys Asn Ser Ser Asn Thr Ser Thr Pro Thr 460 465 470
- Pro Leu Ile Val Tyr Leu Pro Asn Ala Pro Tyr Thr Ala Glu Ser Asn 475 480 485
- Thr Ser Thr Phe Gln Leu Ala Tyr Lys Asp Gln Gln Arg Asp Asp Ile 490 495 500 505
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- Ala Asn Trp Pro Ser Cys Val Gly Cys Ala Ile Leu Gln Arg Ser Thr 525 530 535
- Glu Arg Thr Asn Thr Lys Leu Pro Asp Ile Cys Asn Thr Cys Phe Lys 540 545 550
- Asn Tyr Cys Trp Asp Gly Lys Thr Asn Ser Thr Thr Pro Ala Pro Tyr 555 560 565
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95

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acc cag tgc Thr Gln Cys 550	Phe Gln Lys 555	tac tgc tgg Tyr Cys Trp 560	gat ggc act Asp Gly Thr 565	acg aac tcc Thr Asn Ser	acc 1887 Thr
Asn Pro Ala	gac tat gag Asp Tyr Glu 370	cct gtc acc Pro Val Thr 575	ctg ttg gag Leu Leu Glu 580	gat agt gct Asp Ser Ala	ggt 1935 Gly

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Glu Lys Thr Gln Ser Ala Met Lys Asp Phe Phe Asn His Val Thr Ile 45 50 55

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120

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Interna al Application No PCT/DK 00/00577

A CLASS	SIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER		
1170 /	C12N9/16 C12N15/63 //(C	12N9/16,C12R1:685,C12R1:	59)
		·	•
According	to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification	assification and IPC	•
	SSEARCHED		<u> </u>
Minimum d	documentation searched (classification system followed by class	sification symbols)	
1170	C12N	-	<i>;</i>
		•	
Documenta	ation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent	that such documents are included in the fields :	searched
]			
Electronic o	data base consulted during the international search (name of da	ta hace and whom en attach	
	NE, EPO-Internal	with a practical, search terms use	d)
/	it, Lio interna		•
C. DOCUM	ENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the	ne relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
			Vicionali to classif No.
Χ	MASUDA N ET AL: "Primary stru	icture of	1-12
	protein moiety of Penicillium	Notatim	1-12
	phospholipase B deduced from t	he cDNA"	•
	EUR J BIOCHEM,	VP000001 10 1	
	vol. 202, 1991, pages 783-787, -& DATABASE MEDLINE	XPUU2901491	
	US NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICIN	F (NIM)	<u> </u>
	BETHESDA, MD, US:		
	MASUDA N ET AL: "Primary struc	ture of	
	protein moiety of Pencillium N	otatum	
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	92111525	ion no.	
I	Database accession no. P39457		
Ì	XP002901492		
	62.9% identity in 614 aa overl	ар	
	abstract		
- 1		,	
		-/	
X Furthe	er documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	X Patent family members are listed in	n annex.
* Special cate	egories of cited documents :		
"A" documen	nt defining the general state of the art which is not	"T" later document published after the inter or priority date and not in conflict with t	
CONSIDE	ered to be of particular relevance ocurrient but published on or after the international	cited to understand the principle or the invention	ory underlying the
HAIR OF	ile .	"X" document of particular relevance; the cl	aimed invention
WINCHE	it which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or cited to establish the publication date of another	cannot be considered novel or cannot involve an inventive step when the doc	ument is taken alone i
Ciamon Of documen	or other special reason (as specified) nt referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or	cannot be considered to impose an im-	aimed invention
OHIET HIR	eans .	ments, such combination being obvious	
later tha	nt published prior to the international filing date but on the priority date claimed	"&" document member of the same patent to	1
Date of the ac	ctual completion of the international search		
		Date of mailing of the international sear	en report
23	January 2001	0 8 03 01	•
Varne and ma	ailing address of the ISA		
	European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2	Authorized officer	
	NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,	V	į
	Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Yvonne Siösteen	

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (July 1992

1.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

In: ..ational application No. PCT/DK 00/00577

Box J Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)
This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:
Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).
Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)
This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
see additional sheet
As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. X As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:
Remark on Protest The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

Form PCT/ISA/210 (continuation of first sheet (1)) (July 1998)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

omation on patent family members

PCT/DK 00/00577

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cited in search report		date ·	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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US 6146869	Α	14-11-2000	NONE	